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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	VC-00	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-00	OIG-00	OMB-00	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	IIP-00
	PMB-00	DRL-00	G-00	SAS-00	/000W		

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8249
INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

S E C R E T STOCKHOLM 000804

NOFORN

COPENHAGEN FOR LEGATT WOIWODE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/12/2010
TAGS: PTER, PREL, PGOV, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDEN: PROMOTING IMPROVED COUNTERTERRORISM
COOPERATION

REF: A. STOCKHOLM 570
B. STATE 69626

Classified By: Ambassador, reason 1.4 (b) and (d).

B1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 13 MAY 2025
DATE/CASE ID: 12 MAY 2009 200706444

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Bodstrom Interview

12. (u) Begin text of informal embassy translation of May 7
Dagens Nyheter interview with Justice Minister Thomas
Bodstrom:

Q: (Eva Stenberg of Dagens Nyheter) In a few weeks
Parliament's Committee on the Constitution will examine the
case of the two Egyptians that were extradited in December
2001. What conclusions have you drawn from the fact that
American masked agents were permitted to undress, humiliate
and seize suspects at Bromma Airport and take them to a
country where they, according to TV4's Kalla Fakta (tv
program), were tortured?

A: (Bodstrom) The Government bears the whole responsibility
for their expulsion. The Security Police has the whole
responsibility for the operation at Bromma Airport. It is
extremely important to say that it is fully permitted for
Swedish Police to cooperate with foreign police. I have
myself been critical (of what took place) and reacted to the
news of what happened at Bromma. But that critique cannot
be allowed to be confused with cooperation itself. The fight
against international crime is wholly built on international
cooperation and information. And we are constantly working
to increase that cooperation.

Q: Was your department informed before the extradition? The
former SAPO (Security Police) Chief has said that you are
normally informed in such matters.

A: Through my colleagues in supervisory positions I have
received information that no one was given prior knowledge.
I have no reason to question that. But if I, or anyone else,

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had received information beforehand it would not have made any difference, we would not have stopped anything. In Sweden what authorities do is very regulated, and if I began having opinions on such a matter it would be constitutionally wrong. So if I had received information beforehand it would not have made any difference. What opinions would I have had on that? And if Anna Lindh (then Foreign Minister) would have had opinions after receiving information, she would have committed an error if she had stopped it.

Q: Is it reasonable that CIA agents operate on Swedish territory without you and your department knowing?

A: Yes. It would be completely impossible for me to keep a check on all the cooperation that takes place. There is foreign police here all the time. But Swedish Police should be responsible for the cooperation.

Q: You are ultimately responsible for the Security Police. Will you hold them to account for what happened at Bromma airport?

A: If I assumed operational responsibility we would have direct ministerial governance. The Security Police determined that the actions at Bromma Airport are not cause for complaint. Then I cannot, as I should not play an operative role, take action. On the other hand, I have reviewed the rules for how expulsions are handled.

Q: Does the Government still hold the opinion that Ahmed Agiza and Muhammed Al Zery are terrorists?

A: From the information that we have received there is no doubt that they have had connections to organizations closely related to Egyptian Jihad. One of them has in addition had connections to a person who is close to Usama bin Ladin. We have a significantly lower burden of proof required to expel a person than to convict them. We do not need to know that someone who is going to be extradited has committed or will committed terrorist crimes. If we knew that we would put them on trial in Sweden. It has been discussed that one of the individuals expelled has not been convicted in Egypt. There is nothing strange in that. I would like to see a debate concerning what we should do with people that come here when we find out that there is a risk that they can commit terrorist crimes. From those who criticize us for

this expulsion, I have not heard one single suggestion. To extradite suspected terrorists is absolutely the most important tool for Sweden in the fight against terrorism. We

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see how it works in other countries. The US has interned people without trial for several years. We do not want that system. If we cannot expel people, the only possibility we have is to make them report to the authorities on a regular basis.

Q: How do you assess the risk that Sweden becomes a haven for terrorists?

A: There is no doubt that we have been a little nave. In the 80s and partly in the 90s we did not want to entertain the thought that Sweden could be a place where people involved in terrorist activity came to. Then came people who have now become Swedish citizens. Even if there is no direct threat against Sweden there are, according to SAPO between 20 and 40 people here that in one or another way are connected to terrorists. But today it works better. Primarily we are working with other countries.

Q: The American special force that came to pick up the two Egyptians at Bromma Airport have, according to the US journalist Seymour Hersh, been tasked to pick up people that are suspected of association with terrorists and take them to countries where they can be tortured and provide information. Do you know that the information that Sweden receives has not been produced with the aid of torture?

A: No, one cannot be 100% certain of that. That is not something we get to take part of in the operational work. It is clear that there is always a risk. We get information every month and there are cases where I feel there is not sufficient evidence even to say that there is a risk. It could be the case that you have social relations with a person that you do not have an idea has connections to terrorists. Your neighbor could be one.

Q: How do you see legal rights/rule of law in the international cooperation against terrorism?

A: It is very event driven, which is bad. We give terrorists good incentives to make new attacks when democratic governments are ready to break their principles on human rights. We saw it after the World Trade Center on September 11, we saw it also after Madrid on the 11th of March. When I was at a meeting after the 11th of March ministers were openly saying "We must be able to give an answer to our critical press out there." I am very glad that we have a legal rights debate in Sweden. We are criticized from both directions. At the same time as I sit and answer your questions we are writing an article where we

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answer criticism concerning that we have done too little concerning terrorism. And so I think we are positioned quite well!

End Text.

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